

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Diversity Fair Contact:**  
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**Virginia Secretary of Public Safety Hosts a Northern Virginia “Public Safety Supplier Diversity Fair” for Small, Women, and Minority-Owned Businesses**

**RICHMOND** – Small, Women and Minority-owned (SWaM) businesses throughout the Region will have the unique opportunity in September to explore potential procurement and contract opportunities with more than a dozen Virginia state agencies. The Northern Virginia ***Public Safety Supplier Diversity Fair*** will be held **September 25, 2007** from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the **Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center at Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale Virginia. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.**

The Virginia Secretary of Public Safety's Office hosts the event which enables business owners and entrepreneurs the chance to meet one-on-one with representatives from 13 state public safety agencies. The half-day fair allows vendors to increase their knowledge of the agencies, and the procurement of services and products that they currently utilize.

“I was pleased to participate in the 2006 Public Safety Supplier Diversity Fair and to see the many vendors that it attracted,” said Governor Tim Kaine. “These events offer the opportunity to build invaluable relationships with vendors from small, women and minority-owned businesses. In our efforts to keep the citizens of the Commonwealth safe, we must continue to be more open to utilizing all of the public safety resources that are available to us.”

“Previous Public Safety Supplier Diversity Fairs were held in Richmond, Norfolk and Roanoke and attracted over 200 SWaM businesses per event throughout the Commonwealth,” said Secretary of Public Safety John Marshall. “The true success of the fairs has been demonstrated by increases in vendors’ sales and contracts secured by our state agencies. Networking with SWaM businesses is the key to increasing procurement opportunities, working collaboratively and developing new partnerships.”

For Fair registration, directions and additional information, please visit the website: [www.dcjs.virginia.gov/trainingEvents/psSupplier/2007.cfm](http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/trainingEvents/psSupplier/2007.cfm), or contact Feliscia Bagby at (804) 786-2646. Registration can also be completed online at the Secretary of Public Safety’s Website, [www.publicsafety.virginia.gov](http://www.publicsafety.virginia.gov), or any participating agency Website. Deadline for on-line registration is September 18, 2007.

The half-day fair will exhibit each public safety agency’s procurement process and allow for future business opportunities. The fair will also include representatives from the Virginia Department of Business Assistance (DBA), and the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA), as well as presentations from the Virginia Department of General Services (DGS) and Virginia Department of Minority Business Enterprise (DMBE). The Virginia Department of Business Assistance (DBA) will be available to assist suppliers with on-line SWaM Certification. Suppliers who wish to apply for SWaM Certification will need a **Company Tax ID or Social Security** number (if not incorporated and you do not have a FEIN), **DUNS number** (if you are registered in eVA- Virginia’s electronic purchasing system), **Annual Revenues** over the last 3 years, **number of employees, the year your company was established, and up to 5**

**NIGP Commodity Codes** (NIGP codes identify the goods and/or services your company provides) and a **Picture ID**. You can search NIGP commodity codes at <http://www.eva.state.va.us/NIGPCodes/NIGPCodes.htm> or receive help by calling eVA Customer Care hotline at 1-866-289-7367. Additional information about SWaM Certification can be found on [www.dmbv.virginia.gov](http://www.dmbv.virginia.gov) or call 804-786-6585. For additional assistance please contact Tiffany Taylor-Minor, with the Department of Business Assistance, at 804-371-0357.

Participating public safety agencies include: Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council (CASC), Virginia Department of Correctional Education (DCE), Virginia Department of Corrections (DOC), Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), Virginia Department of Fire Programs (DFP), Virginia Department of Forensic Science (DFS), Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Virginia Department of Military Affairs (DMA), Virginia Parole Board (VPB), Virginia State Police (VSP), Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS).

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